

Claims

1. Method for handling user equipment in a communications network comprising
5 at least a first access network and a second network for enabling user equipment to access the network and a core network for connecting said user equipment, wherein the access network have at least partially overlapping service areas, and wherein user equipment located in the overlapping part can be transferred from the first to the second access network, said method comprising the following
10 steps:
 - receiving (102) an indication of a request for transferring at least one terminal,
 - checking (104) a transfer permission parameter value associated to a terminal,
 - 15 - determining (105) that the transfer permission parameter value indicates that a transfer of the associated user equipment is permitted,
 - initiating (107) the transfer of the terminal from the first to the second access network,characterised by the step of:
 - 20 - determining (106) that the user equipment does not belong to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein an access network operates according to
25 the standards defined for of one of a Global System for Mobile Communications, Wideband Code Division Multiple Access, Code Division Multiple Access, and Enhanced Data Rates for Global System for Mobile Communications Evolution.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the group of user equipment for
30 which a preferred access network has been defined comprises of user equipment

with service capabilities limited to services that correspond to services supported by the second network.

4. Method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the group of user equipment for
5 which a preferred access network has been defined comprises of user equipment used associated to a subscription with permitted services limited to services that correspond to services supported by the second network.
5. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the group of user equipment for
10 which a preferred access network has been defined comprises of user equipment used associated to a subscription for that services are permitted that are not supported by the first network.
6. Method according to claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein the group of user equipment for
15 which a preferred access network has been defined comprises of user equipment with service capabilities corresponding to services that are not supported by the first network.
7. Device (DEV2) for selecting user equipment to be transferred from a first access
20 network to a second access network, comprising an input output unit (IOU2) for sending and receiving messages, a processing unit (PU2) for controlling the other units, a storage (STO2), and a determining unit (DU2) for determining whether a transmission of a user equipment is permitted, characterised by a logical unit (LU2) adapted to determine whether a user equipment belongs to a
25 group of user equipment for which a preferred access network has been defined.
8. Device according to claim 7, wherein the logical unit determines whether a user equipment belongs to said group by means of analysing a transfer permission parameter value associated to the user equipment.

9. Database for storing subscriber related data containing an input/output unit for sending and receiving messages, a processing unit for controlling the database and a storage for storing subscriber related data, characterised by that the storage is adapted to store information whether a user equipment used by a subscriber
5 belongs to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined.
10. Network node for performing a subscriber identification analysis, characterised by that the network node comprises electronic circuitry for determining whether
10 a user equipment belongs to a group of user equipment, for which a preferred access network has been defined.